Index function in excel

In this article, we will discuss index function in excel.

What is an index?

To explain the index, let us consider an example of a restaurant menu (see the figure below)

Beverages

Tea...................... 20

Coffee.................30

Sweet Dish

Chocolate..........................15

Ice cream............................50

If you are browsing the menu and you ask waiter – where is the ice cream in the menu. The reply could be

1. Second item in the sweet dish section
2. See the item in the second row and second column of the menu.

In both the cases, 'second item' or 'second row and second column' is the index. So index is a number that defines the position of the object in a collection.

Purpose of index function

Index function returns the object from a specific position in a collection.

Syntax

=Index(array, row_number, col_number)

In the above syntax

1. Array – collection of objects.

2. Row_number − As the name suggests, this parameter represents row number in the collection.

3. col_number − As the name suggests, this parameter represents column number in the collection.

Example